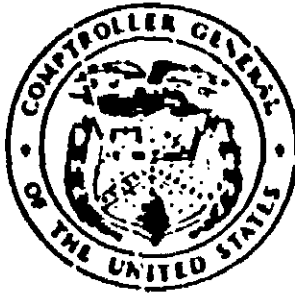


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DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-207504

DATE: July 12, 1982

MATTER OF: Worthington Group, McGraw-Edison Company

DIGEST:

GAO will not consider protest that competition should be restricted since basic objective of bid protest function is to insure full and free competition.

Worthington Group, McGraw-Edison Company (Worthington), protests the procurement method in connection with invitation for bids (IFB) DLA700-82-B-V388 issued by the Defense Logistics Agency.

Worthington contends that the IFB is defective because it opens the procurement of complex critical parts to non-original equipment manufacturers (OEM). Since quality parts cannot be obtained without critical dimensions and tolerances, heat treatments and manufacturing processes developed by the OEM, Worthington, as the OEM for the parts being procured, contends it is the only contractor who has the intimate knowledge required to manufacture the parts to meet the original requirements. Worthington argues, therefore, that the procurement should be restricted to a sole-source procurement from Worthington.

We dismiss the protest.

As a general matter, our Office will not resolve a protest that an agency should procure an item from a particular firm on a sole-source basis. Ingersoll-Rand Company, B-206066, February 3, 1982, 82-1 CPD 83.

We dismiss the protest.

Harry R. Van Cleve
Harry R. Van Cleve
Acting General Counsel